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# Foe of the Shah Finds Khomeini Infinitely Worse

Iran is in turmoil, and the world's greatest oil treasure is in jeopardy. If a pro-Soviet government should rise out of the ashes of Iran, the Kremlin could wind up controlling the Persian Gulf, which is the fountainhead of most of the western world's oil.

Events inside Iran are so murky that our intelligence services unfortunately aren't sure which reports are reliable, which are wishful thinking and which are rumors.

I have always had my own direct sources of information on Iran. They are moderates and intellectuals who hope that some day Iran will become a stable democracy.

They correctly predicted that the shah would be overthrown by a violently anti-American government. They gave me enough backup evidence that I published this warning a full year before the Central Intelligence Agency realized that the shah was in trouble.

Now these same sources have furnished me with the latest information on Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his fascist clerics. One source, who was fiercely and actively opposed to the shah, told my associate Joseph Spear that Khomeini is

infinitely worse. "A government that is 1 percent democracy is better than a government which has no democracy at all," he explained.

Here are the latest bits of information, some of it conflicting, that our sources have obtained by clandestine telephone messages direct from Iran.

- Iran is in utter chaos. The economy is shattered. Prices are soaring, and there are long lines waiting to buy the necessities of life. About 70 percent of Iran's industries are shut down.

- Some experts suspect that the Russians are trying actively to "destabilize" the Khomeini government, hoping that a successor regime would be pro-Soviet. Other sources dispute this, insisting the Soviets have been fairly quiet, preoccupied with Poland and Afghanistan.

- Top-level U.S. officials are wondering if the Iranian army isn't the last best hope of overthrowing Khomeini and setting up a stable, less anti-American government. Iranian sources say this is a vain hope, because the military is almost totally disorganized after repeated purges of its top leadership by Khomeini. When the ayatollah fired ex-president Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr as commander-in-chief, for instance, he had to call each military post, one by one, to notify the local commanders, because there was no central military authority and no chain of command to pass the word.

- Khomeini is a criminal. Justice would be served if he were put on trial. His indictment would include suppression of human rights, torture and summary execution of thousands of political opponents, persecution of Jews and other religious minorities, instigation of the illegal seizure and detention of the American hostages, and incitement of the anti-American rioting in neighboring Pakistan. A secret list reportedly names between 6,000 and 8,000 Iranians who have been executed by Khomeini's revolutionary squads.

- The moderates in Iran are either dead or on the run.